

received a very necessary fillip. It was borne in upon me that the realm of the one-act play was not a pasture impossible for the amateur to invade. My critical faculties, dormant for some time, were aroused, and I felt that my professional career as a Librarian had benefited by the fortnight's Course.

On the other side of the picture I have a few criticisms to offer. In the first instance a fortnight was all too short for the amount of knowledge one was supposed to acquire, despite the Course's remarkably well-planned concision. As a Librarian I must stress a point I raised earlier. A library needs a trained Librarian in charge if it is to be used to full advantage. I again reiterate the surety I feel that there are plenty of librarians in the Forces who could definitely be doing a better job of work by taking charge of these libraries than by performing many of the duties they are at present carrying out. Again, to what extent were Librarians or the Library Association consulted in the fairly considerable expenditure which must have been involved in setting up these libraries at the several Army Schools of Education in this country? Finally, are Librarians assisting in the purchases of books which are being made or are contemplated, for the use of units during the demob. period? Is the Library Association alive to the position of affairs, or is it, as appears to be almost customary, again being ignored where it should be very closely—almost intimately concerned?

Dr. H. Bellamy-Gardner, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Notes on His Life and a Bibliography

By B. BELLAMY GARDNER

HAROLD GARDNER was born in St. Augustine's Road, Camden Square, on January 9th, 1869. His father, Thomas William Gardner, was a well known civil engineer and had taken part in the construction of the Thames Embankment. He also designed the paving of Odessa in South Russia, and in 1871 went out to India, to carry out the drainage of Calcutta, hydraulic engineering being his special hobby. He and Mary Adelaide Legg were married in March, 1868, at St. Paul's, Knightsbridge.

After the death of Thomas William Gardner, the family moved to 24, Well Walk, Hampstead (re-numbered 32 now). They lived there until 1883 when his mother was married to Mr. John Phillips, President of the Law Writers' Association and Master of one of the City Guilds, the Worshipful Company of Cooks. Mr. Phillips was settled at 13, Gayton Crescent, Hampstead, near Well Walk, so they went to live there for the next ten years.

In 1880 he entered Merchant Taylors' School (then in Charterhouse Square in the city). He went on to the Classical side, and studied there until 1886. In 1887 he gained his Matriculation at Burlington House.

On October 3rd, 1887, he was entered as a Medical Student at Charing Cross Hospital. I have discovered a certificate which mentions that on July 31st, 1888, "Mr. Harold Gardner has attended a course of Practical Pharmacy."

On June 16th, 1891, he obtained a certificate of proficiency in the practice and principles of Vaccination. On July 1st of that year he obtained a special certificate of Merit at Charing Cross Hospital Medical School of Medicine for Junior Practical Medicine.

1892 seems to have been a very hard-working year. On October 27th he was made a Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians, and less than a month passed before he was admitted as a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, on November 10th. On the 14th of the same month he was entered as a Registered Medical Practitioner.

On March 16th, 1894, Harold Gardner assumed the name of Bellamy, in addition to the surname of Gardner, by Deed Poll. On May 21st, 1894, the name Bellamy Gardner was entered by the Medical Council.

Harold Gardner served as a House Surgeon on the staff of the Charing Cross Hospital from December 1st, 1892, to May 31st, 1893.

On September 10th, 1906, at a meeting of the Governors of the London Hospital, he was elected a Governor of that Hospital for life for "service rendered to that Institution."

In 1919 the Joint Committee of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England presented a certificate "in recognition of valuable services rendered during the War."

Lastly, on December 2nd, 1938, he was elected an Honorary Member to the Section of Anaesthetics at the Royal Society of Medicine "in recognition of his distinguished services to science."

Between 1894 and approximately, 1907, Dr. Gardner served on a number of Hospitals as anaesthetist. The following is a list of these hospitals:

King George Hospital.	Male Lock Hospital.
Charing Cross Hospital.	Royal Dental Hospital.
St. Mark's Hospital.	Chelsea Hospital for Women.
National Orthopaedic Hospital.	

On May 1st, 1895, he set up in private practice at 11a, Welbeck Street, as a specialist in anaesthetics. He subsequently moved to 52, Beaumont Street, then to 3, Mansfield Street, and, in December, 1906, to 126, Harley Street, where he lived for 22 years.

I should like to introduce here a few lines from the autobiography that he was engaged upon, when illness overtook him early in 1943.

"Until quite recent times the lay public's idea was that the anaesthetist could put a person off to sleep in a moment or two, and then go off to someone else and talk about golf or yachting, till the operation was over. This is not the case at all, but, on the contrary, the surgeons regard us as 'the man at the wheel,' while they fight their battle against the enemy. An anaesthetist's duty is exacting, continuous, and full of anxiety; though constant practice greatly reduces the latter. So much is this the case that one of our older experts used, for their benefit, to whistle while he put his patients to sleep; and, frequently so great was his sangfroid, that he was specially called in to cheer up the surgeons themselves when they had to operate in dangerous conditions on their colleagues and other members of their own profession."

In those days at Harley Street he was so busy with private work and was so frequently called out by more than twenty surgeons and over one hundred dentists, that he was obliged to give up his hospital attendances.

The next move was to 91, Clarence Gate Gardens, just off Baker Street, and he continued his practice from there. Soon after the outbreak of war there was another removal—this time to another flat in the same street—where he remained until his death on September 7th, 1943.

It was in November, 1917, that English Eighteenth Century Porcelain first began to claim his attention as a hobby for collecting something of beauty for the decoration of the home. When there were gaps in-between cases he used to go to the antique dealers of good repute and learnt a great deal on the subject from them. Thus, as time went on and his knowledge increased, he began to write for the leading Art magazines, describing and illustrating unusual and rare specimens which he had recently acquired.

In 1924, Mr. Reginald Blunt, C.B.E. (the author of many delightful books about Old Chelsea) approached Dr. Gardner with the request that he should help in making a large collection of Old Chelsea China to be lent for exhibition in the Council Chamber of the Chelsea Town Hall for a fortnight in the summer of that year. He agreed with readiness and both he and his wife (my dear mother) were put on the Organizing Committee. They sent several pieces of Chelsea Porcelain which were put on show and spent a good deal of time in arranging the setting of the many hundreds of exhibits which were to be displayed. The actual opening of the Exhibition was on June 2nd, 1924, and, during the fortnight that it was open it had about 3,170 visitors. The Committee had the satisfaction of handing over the sum of £1,170 to the Cheyne Hospital for Children.*

The next winter he gave a lantern lecture at 126, Harley Street to a party of collectors, one of whom (Mrs. Donald A. Macalister) suggested that it would be very pleasant if a Society were formed for meeting at collectors' houses and reading papers on Ceramic subjects. In February, 1927, the "English Porcelain Circle," afterwards renamed the "English Ceramic Circle," was born, and Dr. Gardner elected one of the Vice-Presidents, a position which he remained to his decease.

The Circle soon numbered about eighty members, approximately half of whom were country members, and meetings were held both in town and country residences. Dr. Gardner gave several lectures to the Society, which were afterwards reproduced in the Circle's Printed Transactions.

*See *The Cheyne Book of Chelsea China and Pottery*, edited by Reginald Blunt, C.B.E. Geoffrey Bles, 1924.

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Letters on our Affairs

DEAR ZENODOTUS,

NEW YEAR

always demands some sort of attitude, natural at that time, but perhaps thought to be sentimental at others. You and I are incurable sentimentalists, although of course we profess to sheer and continuous realism, and we do like to exchange greetings and pleasant anticipations at this time. We are a little perturbed perhaps at the turn of events during December. It seemed to douche, and coldly, our expectations, but in this as in so many of our forecastings we may be wrong. Our greetings then take the solid ground of assurance that, whatever may happen, we are prepared to carry on, in our libraries as elsewhere, until liberation from the present nightmare. I am sure that goes for you, too, as for all librarians.

AHEAD!

To what are we able to look forward in Libraries? I see the Editor of a library journal says that, so far as municipal libraries are concerned, we have "missed the bus," because we failed to link our system with the formal organization of education. There will be so many schemes of reconstruction, costly and with greater influence than any we can formulate, that there will be no money left for Libraries. You see he acquiesces in the widely-held view that libraries must always be in the things left over, to be sustained or extended only when all other needs, or clamours, have been satisfied. It would be useful to confront this question candidly. Can libraries ever be brought out into the open to such effect that the ordinary town councillor who, after all, is the reflexion of the ordinary man and woman, thinks us worth money? That is the brass tacks of our position. It is true that, relatively to our standing in, say, 1919, we have advanced beyond the dreams of—not avarice but of the then advanced librarian. When Francis Barrett was city librarian of Glasgow he thought £450 was a salary which was adequate and one which the Libraries Committee ought not to exceed. When Walter Powell was at Birmingham he never, I think, earned more for that really great library position than £750, and can you not remember the time when in Greenwood we read of Wigan: "Salaries, Librarian £250, sub-librarian £52," and "senior assistants" were offered from £40 to £60 all over the country. It is well to look at the pit out of which we have climbed. You say, why pin attention to salaries? I answer that they are indexes of the esteem of the public. It was the penny rate limitation, we may urge, but surely the public, had it willed it, could have raised that in any year had it been convinced of the value of such a course. From which we may infer that the English (or British—for the Scots with their present damnable rate-limitation and confusion of control are in worse case) regard libraries as a pretty ancillary of community life worth having so long as the cost is negligible. Would this have been different had we been under the heel of the director of education? Innocence only can believe it. Where is the County Librarian who has a position financially equal to that of the greater city librarians? What encouragement does the average educationist give to libraries, what practical, personal help? We have seen the recent pronouncement on new teachers, made by the Minister of Education, who is reported to have indicated that the future teachers must not be bookworms. I doubt whether he said anything quite so silly, but I have been told by an education officer that he would "get rid" of a teacher who depended upon books. That is one of the reasons for the position of the library.

MR. SAVAGE.

I am duly amused by the long letter of Mr. Savage gloating over the way in which I play

into his hands. I give him joy, if he can get any, from his *riposte*. He knows, however, as well as I do that London is the only place where regular meetings of national councils can be held and so those of the Library Association. The journey to Liverpool, Birmingham or Oxford would give me more joy, were I a councillor, than the easier journey to London, because I am a rabid traveller, but Mr. Savage is well aware that London offers so many *other* advantages, of accommodation (normally, *not* now), for bookbuying, theatre going and a thousand other things, that it cannot be superseded. Moreover all the railways have their termini there. If that is a "wheeze," let it be so.

THE GOVERNORS.

I am not inclined to pursue his assertions about the powers of the Emergency Committee because they are not my personal concern. I do know that, by the Charter, the Council, and not the annual or any other meeting of members, is the "governing body" of the Library Association. The remedy, if the members do not like it, is to elect another Council, which they can easily do at the next election. It seems to me to be a profound pity when so much valuable and generally acceptable work is being done for librarians that these constant attempts should be made to clog the machinery. Yet I can't help saying that I, who love direct controversy, greatly rejoice when Mr. Savage from his detached balcony seat comes down into the arena and hurls javelins at all and sundry. His dexterity far exceeds that of most of us. Long may he be disposed to do it; but he must not be annoyed if we occasionally find it more amusing than creative.

CHILDREN'S BOOKS.

The Junior Bookshelf for November gives advice to the Library Association on "The Carnegie Medal" and its award. To begin with, the medal is rightly named The Library Association Carnegie Memorial Medal and is a premium the L.A. gives to a children's book thought worthy of it by librarians. It's only relation to Carnegie is the L.A.'s desire to honour his memory. The use of the abbreviated designation leaves the impression that the Carnegie Trust awards it as they do their medal for heroism. We suppose, however, that the invariable abbreviating practice of the English will prevail. As to the advice, I myself am of opinion that, even including the pleasant book the Editor names, there was no book deserving of the canonising that such an award ought to bring about, even if sometimes it does not. As for including Eire authors, can you see the least reason for honouring a country which has refused all its obligations as a "country in the British Commonwealth of nations"?

LIBRARIANSHIP

has had its books this year in spite of the unpropitious times. I have really got my copy of Sayers's new edition of his *Manual of Classification*, which surely holds the record for length of time in coming. It seems to be a nearly new book. Sharp's *Cataloguing*, too, is a pretty substantial affair of the times. Then we have had the new version of the *Anglo-American Catalog Code* and that capital text-book Miss Mann's *Introduction to Cataloging and Classification* makes up a quartette which is memorable in such a time as this.

May 1945 strengthen and bring you peace of heart and mind.

Vale!

CALLIMACHUS.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of the writers of "LETTERS ON OUR AFFAIRS."—
Editor, THE LIBRARY WORLD.

The Times, in a useful leading article on August 28, asserted that orders for books now commonly amount to four or five times the numbers printed. It concludes that the general war situation now warrants a new survey of available resources so that they may be augmented. Incidentally, it tells us that the Stationery Office uses 100,000 tons of paper against the publishers' 22,000. The shortage of labour in the binding trade creates a bottleneck which holds up most books, too. Perhaps the main argument that will appeal to authority, which in England has so often shown a stepmotherly regard for culture, is that books should figure prominently in our after-war export trade. Meanwhile, many of our best books come from the U.S.A., and they are welcome, although we understand that in many technical subjects the formulas and standards are not the same as ours. The appeal which the librarians of the six largest public library systems made in *The Times* of September 21 for more paper for books will, it is hoped, help further with the campaign for a saner policy in the main question.